**Lecture 4: Russell's external world project**

1. The supreme maxim in scientific philosophizing:
   *Replace inferences with logical constructions whenever possible.*

2. What is an inference?
   What's so bad about inferences?

3. The problem of correlating sense-data with physical objects

4. What is a logical construction?

   (a) Examples:
       – Definition of number as a class of equinumerous classes
       – Definition of a real number as a convergent sequence of rational numbers
   (b) Question: Is there a principled account of logical constructions?

5. Russell's construction project

   (a) Sense-data versus sensibilia
       Sensibilia are *physical*.
       "...sensibilia are to be recognized as the ultimate constituents of the physical world" (p. 119)
   (b) The construction of space
       Ambiguities of the word "place"
       – the place *at* which the sensible appears (private space)
       – the place *from which* the sensible appears (perspective space = space of points of view)
   (c) The construction of objects
       i. "...The 'thing' of common sense may in fact be identified with the whole class of its appearances." (p. 120)
       ii. Matter of a thing = the limit of appearances as spatial distance goes to zero
       iii. "Physical things are those series of appearances whose matter obeys the laws of physics." (p. 135)
   (d) Illusions and hallucinations

6. Open questions for Russell

   (a) Methodological solipsism
   (b) Uninstantiated perspectives